

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of the claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for integrating messaging functionality into database operations on a computer system, the method comprising:

- (a) providing one or more chosen functions in a database system, the one or more functions provided by a messaging system that is external to the database system, further comprising
 - (a1) adding the one or more functions as user-defined functions in the database system wherein the user-defined functions comprise one or more of functions to: place a message on a queue of the messaging system, retrieve at least one message from the queue, non-destructively retrieve all messages from the queue, and read at least one message from the queue, the user-defined functions specifying a service endpoint, a destination, and a delivery policy, and
 - (a2) providing the one or more functions from a publish and subscribe-based messaging system; and
- (b) utilizing one or more chosen functions from the database system within structured query language statements to access the messaging system from the database system, wherein the messaging system is a separate application

from the database system such that the messaging capabilities are provided externally to the database by the messaging system.

2-18. (Cancelled).